

Message

From: Dunn, Alexandra [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=426D0177EAAB4001A5C85F051565997E-DUNN, ALEXA]
Sent: 11/7/2018 9:30:36 PM
To: Deegan, Dave [Deegan.Dave@epa.gov]
CC: Senn, John [Senn.John@epa.gov]; Gutro, Doug [Gutro.Doug@epa.gov]; Bender, Emily [Bender.Emily@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Compilation 11/7/18

Wow!!!

Sent from my iPhone

Alexandra Dapolito Dunn, J.D.

Regional Administrator

Region 1 New England

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This email is for official EPA business only and may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of information Act

On Nov 7, 2018, at 4:29 PM, Deegan, Dave <Deegan.Dave@epa.gov> wrote:

Nice that HQ picked up the Amico story as top lead for today's clips roundup.

Great work John!

Dave

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Dave Deegan

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**From:** Agarwal, Ilana

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 07, 2018 4:12 PM

**To:** AO OPA OMR CLIPS <[AO\\_OPA\\_OMR\\_CLIPS@epa.gov](mailto:AO_OPA_OMR_CLIPS@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Compilation 11/7/18

**Compilation**

E&E News: EPA honors activist for work on drinking water

E&E News: EPA restores Bush-era permit interpretation

## Midterms

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## Ecowatch: The Best and Worst Midterm Results for the Environment

<https://www.ecowatch.com/midterm-results-environment-climate-change-2618493194.html>

Olivia Rosane- Nov. 07, 2018 07:48AM EST

Results from the U.S. midterm election are mostly in, and, when it comes to what they mean for the environment, they're a real mixed bag.

On the plus side, the Democrats took the House of Representatives, which, as BBC News pointed out, means that President Donald Trump can't pass any more major legislation without their approval. Since big legislative pushes in the Republican controlled House over the past two years included an attack on the Endangered Species Act and a Farm Bill that would have limited controls on toxic pesticides and water pollution, this can only be an improvement.

On the minus side, the Republicans increased their majority in the Senate. Since the Senate is the body that confirms all of the president's judicial and political appointments, there will still be nothing blocking Trump from appointing more judges like Brett Kavanaugh with a dubious environmental record. They will also be able to sign off on whoever Trump finally chooses as Scott Pruitt's permanent replacement at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The House is more likely now to investigate corruption-prone, industry-friendly Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, but the Senate could go right ahead and confirm a replacement equally likely to sell out public lands to fossil fuel interests.

When it comes to the environmental implications of individual races and ballot measures, the night was about equally full of gains and losses. But it's important to remember that no matter who wins, popular movements can always make a difference. So whether your favorite candidate won or lost last night, you can and should continue fighting to halt climate change and ensure a healthy, thriving environment for all life on earth.

That said, here are a few of the key takeaways from last night.

### 1. Big Oil's Big Spending Paid Off

A graphic showing the results of Washington state's voting on I-1631  
[pbs.twimg.com](https://www.pbs.twimg.com)

Probably the most disappointing result from a climate change perspective is the fact that Washington's Initiative 1631, which would have created the nation's first fee on carbon emissions, was defeated in the polls. Colorado's Proposition 112, which would have banned oil and gas drilling on 85 percent of the state's land, also failed. The fossil fuel industry put more than \$73 million into defeating the two initiatives, the Huffington Post reported, so in this case money power was sadly stronger than people power.

In terms of the other ballot measures EcoWatch was tracking, Arizona's Proposition 127, which would have upped the state's renewable energy target to 50 percent by 2030, was also defeated, as was Alaska's Ballot Measure 1, which would have imposed new restrictions on projects that threaten salmon habitat. Florida's unusual Amendment 9, banning both offshore oil drilling and indoor vaping, was the only one to succeed.

## 2. Climate Change Tipping Point

Climate change was also a campaign issue in several key races, and, while it's hard to pinpoint what issue tipped a candidate over the edge to victory, there were some wins where it might have made a difference.

Before the election, Grist assembled an analysis of five hotly contested races in districts where more than two-thirds of residents were worried about climate change. Turns out, all of the Democrats in those races won or are currently leading in the polls, according to The New York Times.

Anti-pipeline and offshore drilling Democrat Tom Malinowski beat Republican incumbent Leonard Lance in New Jersey's seventh district.

Democrat Colin Allred, who wants to rejoin the Paris agreement, defeated incumbent Republican Pete Sessions, who wants to scale back the EPA. This is in Texas' 32nd district, which saw unusually deadly storms and flooding this fall.

Also in Texas, Republican incumbent John Culberson lost to Democrat Lizzie Pannill Fletcher in the seventh district that includes parts of Houston deeply impacted by Hurricane Harvey last year. Florida's 26th district is its southernmost point, already grappling with tidal flooding due to sea level rise. Republican incumbent Carlos Curbelo was not a climate denier, and in fact founded the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus. But Democrat Debbie Mucarsel-Powell promised more environmental action and won.

The race between Republican incumbent Dana Rohrabacher and Democratic challenger Harley Rouda for California's 48th district, which includes parts of coastal Orange County at risk from sea level rise, is still too close to call. But Rouda, who opposed offshore oil drilling and promised clean energy, is leading.

## 3. Rise of the Green New Deal:

The Green New Deal: fixing climate and the economy?

The brightest glimmer of hope to come out of the midterms is the fact that there are now four Democrats in the House who are calling for a Green New Deal, a massive government push to turn away from fossil fuels and build renewable energy infrastructure, The Huffington Post reported.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez confirmed her win after her surprise primary victory in New York's 14th district this summer, and she is joined in championing the issue by the first two Muslim women in Congress:

Ilhan Omar in Minnesota's 5th District and Rashida Tlaib in Michigan's 13th. Antonio Delgado beat Republican John Faso in New York's 19th district to round out the group.

While some influential champions of the idea, like Florida Democratic gubernatorial candidate Andrew Gillum, lost their races, Penn State University climate scientist Michael Mann said it was important that the idea was gaining ground given the dire warnings of the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report on limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

"This is the sort of bold and audacious thinking that we need when it comes to confronting the ever-pressing challenge of averting catastrophic climate change," Mann told the Huffington Post.

## Legal News Line: Multistate coalition of attorneys general blasts EPA proposal to cut carbon pollution rules

<https://legalnewsline.com/stories/511623163-multistate-coalition-of-attorneys-general-blasts-epa-proposal-to-cut-carbon-pollution-rules>

By Marian Johns | Nov 7, 2018

SACRAMENTO — California Attorney General Xavier Becerra is the latest to join a multistate effort to oppose a Trump administration proposal to do away with federal regulations that place limits on fossil-fuel power plants' carbon emissions.

In a letter condemning the proposal by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to cut carbon pollution rules, Becerra and the other attorneys general are calling the efforts a "dirty power plan" that will loosen power plant greenhouse gas requirements as well as several types of air pollution measures designed to stop climate change and protect the health of individuals.

"The clock is ticking, and yet the Trump administration continues to foolishly turn its back on any progress we've made to safeguard future generations," Becerra said in a statement. "With this misguided plan that benefits corporate polluters over the well-being of the American public, Trump is callously selling out our children's future and vowing to make America dirty again."

The EPA states in its proposed plan that the changes in regulations "would cause over 1,630 additional premature deaths per year by 2030," Becerra's office said. According to Becerra, the EPA also admits its proposed plan would lead to health issues including respiratory problems.

The attorneys general are requesting the EPA to withdraw its proposed plan because it is based on the agency's "unlawful interpretation" of the Clean Air Act, according to Becerra's office.

## Feedstuffs: Western Pennsylvania explored for animal ag development

*Research is first step in exploring opportunities and challenges to developing animal agriculture in western Pennsylvania in a way that is both economically and environmentally sustainable.*

<https://www.feedstuffs.com/news/western-pennsylvania-explored-animal-ag-development>

Nov 07, 2018

Many states have explored opportunities for developing their animal agriculture industries, and Pennsylvania is no exception. To comply with nutrient reduction goals in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, Pennsylvania may want to consider establishing animal agriculture operations in the western part of the state, according to a team of researchers from The Pennsylvania State University.

While animal agriculture in the Susquehanna River basin (eastern portion of the state) poses significant challenges in meeting water quality limits set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the region of Pennsylvania drained by the Ohio River system is a different story. It provides additional opportunities for new animal agriculture facilities and related manure management activities, according to a report prepared by engineers, economists and sociologists in the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences.

The research is seen as a first step in exploring opportunities and challenges to developing animal agriculture in western Pennsylvania in a way that is both economically and environmentally sustainable, noted lead researcher Cibir Raj, assistant professor of agricultural and biological engineering. He believes, ultimately, the region could be home to many more livestock.

"For this study, we focused our analysis on three western Pennsylvania counties: Armstrong, Indiana and Westmoreland," he said. "Our estimates indicate the three counties together could support about 78,000 dairy cattle or about 100,000 beef cattle if all the highly and moderately suitable areas from an environmental perspective were cultivated with corn and fertilized by manure nitrogen. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's national 'Census of Agriculture,' which is conducted every five years, these three counties combined have about 53,300 cattle and calves."

Researchers used geospatial analysis to quantify suitable land availability for manure use and conducted economic analysis examining what would be required to create and sustain a larger, economically viable livestock industry in western Pennsylvania. They also met with farmers and agribusiness owners to identify opportunities and challenges facing animal agriculture in the region.

Existing agricultural croplands, grasslands and unused land areas were considered potential areas for manure utilization. According to the announcement, the analysis showed that the three counties combined have about 323,000 acres of potential areas available for manure utilization. However, not all potential areas are suitable for additional utilization.

The researchers conducted a comprehensive land suitability analysis that considered proximity to streams, flood plains and bodies of water, shallow soils, geology, steep slopes, soil-leaching potential and runoff potential, Penn State said.

However, expanding animal agriculture in western Pennsylvania will not be easy, warned research team member David Abler, professor of agricultural, environmental/regional economics and demographics. The study's economic feasibility analysis suggests that expanding animal agriculture in the region will be a challenging proposition, he said. Four main economic obstacles will need to be considered.

First, western Pennsylvania lacks livestock processing capacity. There are very few processors in the three counties studied, and most are small scale. Second, the region lacks access to livestock production input suppliers, particularly those with an in-person service component, such as farm support and veterinary services.

"Only Westmoreland County has a large enough base of college-educated labor to support an expansion of service providers from its own human resources," Abler said. "For Armstrong and Indiana counties, most of the college-educated labor needed to expand farm support and veterinary services would have to come from elsewhere."

Third, the researchers pointed out that the existing transportation infrastructure in western Pennsylvania is not sufficient to support a large-scale livestock industry. The livestock industry relies on efficient transportation systems to supply inputs and move products to retail markets, making it important for livestock farms, input suppliers and livestock processors to be closely linked to the local transportation infrastructure.

Fourth, the existing livestock industry in western Pennsylvania lacks "agglomeration economies" — benefits in terms of proximity to suppliers, workers and customers that businesses obtain by locating close to each other — to build on.

Water quality limits for the Chesapeake Bay watershed set by EPA could lead to a downsizing of the livestock industry in the watershed, Abler explained. However, it does not automatically follow that any reductions in livestock production in the Chesapeake Bay watershed would be offset by increases in production in western Pennsylvania.

"For livestock products that are highly perishable and have high distribution costs, such as fluid milk and ice cream, proximity to East Coast markets may favor western Pennsylvania over other substitute locations," Abler said. "For other livestock products, such as meat, cheese and butter, if production facilities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed were forced to close because of water quality constraints, they might not relocate in western Pennsylvania but instead might move out of state."

The study's findings also suggest that addressing the challenges and opportunities of expanding animal agriculture in western Pennsylvania will require robust partnerships among local stakeholders, according to research team member Walt Whitmer, senior extension educator. "Bringing together producers, processors, state and local agencies, local governments, economic development and nonprofit organizations and technical assistance and education providers will all be critical to making the most of these opportunities," he said.

## The Hill: EPA loosens air pollution permit requirements for some projects

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/415482-epa-exempts-some-projects-from-air-pollution-permit-requirements>

BY TIMOTHY CAMA - 11/07/18 10:46 AM EST

The Trump administration is implementing a policy meant to make it easier for facilities that produce air pollution to make changes without going through a complex permitting process.

The policy published Wednesday changes how the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determines whether changes to power plants and other facilities -- like installing new equipment -- need to go through the New Source Review process. That process is an extensive analysis meant to limit emissions of air pollutants like nitrogen oxides and particulate matter.

Under the new policy, the EPA will consider different actions to be a single project for permitting purposes if they are "substantially related." That could potentially exempt actions that increase emissions if other actions reduce them.

The policy is part of a series of actions the EPA has taken to overhaul the New Source Review process and narrow the projects that need go through permitting as if they were new construction.

"Previously, New Source Review regularly discouraged companies from employing the latest energy-efficient equipment," acting EPA head Andrew Wheeler said in a statement.

"Our updates will remove undue regulatory barriers, provide greater certainty to America's job creators and energy providers, and incentivize upgrades that will improve air quality."

Since the EPA isn't changing regulatory text, it did not do any cost-benefit analysis of the change, including how it might increase or decrease air pollution, or how much it could save industry.

The policy being implemented Wednesday, which isn't treated as a regulation and doesn't hold the weight of law, was first put forward in 2009, five days before then-President George W. Bush left office.

President Barack Obama's administration then suspended the policy after environmental groups objected and said it would increase air pollution. Officials gathered input in 2010 on potentially reversing or changing it, but never took action.

The American Forest & Paper Association, whose member companies often are subject to EPA air pollution permitting reviews for manufacturing plants, cheered the new policy.

"Currently, companies working in good faith to comply with this component of NSR must rely on interpretations of project aggregation that are contrary to historical approaches. As a result, new manufacturing investments can be forced to be grouped together for permitting when they are economically and technically very different projects that should be considered separately — a costly process that hampers strategic business planning," Donna Harman, the group's president, said in a statement.

"Clear public policy that will support their ability to continuously invest in their facilities is helping to grow the economy and create American manufacturing jobs."

## E&E News: EPA honors activist for work on drinking water

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060105447/search?keyword=epa>

Courtney Columbus- Wednesday, November 7, 2018

EPA honored an activist today who fights for regulatory action on industrial chemicals in drinking water.

Andrea Amico, the co-founder of an activist group, Testing for Pease, received EPA's Citizen Excellence in Community Involvement Award at city hall in Portsmouth, N.H.

A Portsmouth resident, Amico lives near the former Pease Air Force Base, where chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have been found in drinking water.

PFAS have been widely used for decades in commercial and industrial products including firefighting foam and nonstick cookware.

Andrea Amico. Photo credit: Testing for Pease/Facebook

Andrea Amico. Testing for Pease/Facebook

Amico testified at a Senate subcommittee hearing on PFAS in September, calling for regulating PFAS as a class of chemicals, instead of focusing regulations on just a few of those compounds. There are thousands of chemicals in the class.

She also criticized the federal government then for moving too slowly.

"It's disheartening to hear that action could take five to 10 years, when at Pease, we're coming up on five years of discovering our contamination," Amico told lawmakers (E&E Daily, Sept. 27).

In written testimony, she also called for designating PFAS as hazardous substances, setting a maximum contaminant level of 1 part per trillion for all PFAS and phasing out fluorinated firefighting foams.

Amico learned of PFAS contamination in Portsmouth's water after her children had attended day care there.

"When looking into child care facilities, we asked many questions of the day care facilities we considered, but never did it cross our minds that we had to question the quality of the water," she told the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs subcommittee.

She said she continues to worry about her children's health, channeling that concern into action through Testing for Pease.

"We have successfully advocated for a blood testing program, remediation and filtration for our water, and a health study to better understand the impacts to our family and our community," she told lawmakers.

## E&E News: EPA restores Bush-era permit interpretation

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060105453/search?keyword=epa>

Sean Reilly, - Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Taking another step to ease application of New Source Review permitting requirements, EPA has revived a 2009 interpretation of a technical facet known as "project aggregation."

Issued just before President George W. Bush left office, that interpretation dealt with the standards for deciding when physical or operational change to a power plant, factory or some other industrial facility are "substantially related" and thus amount to a single project significant enough to trigger the need for a New Source Review pre-construction permit.

The final action signed today by acting EPA chief Andrew Wheeler reaffirms the view that such changes don't have to be aggregated just because they support the plant's basic purpose and that timing alone doesn't require that they be grouped together, according to an agency fact sheet. More specifically, the policy presumes that plant changes three or more years apart are not substantially related, unless specific evidence indicates otherwise.

"Our updates will remove undue regulatory barriers, provide greater certainty to America's job creators and energy providers, and incentivize upgrades that will improve air quality," Wheeler said in a statement. Praising the agency's decision was American Forest & Paper Association President and CEO Donna Harman.

"Currently, companies working in good faith to comply with this component of NSR must rely on interpretations of project aggregation that are contrary to historical approaches," Harman said in a news release. As a result, she said, manufacturers can be forced to group projects when they are economically and technically different enough that they should be considered separately.

Wheeler's decision came in response to a 2009 reconsideration petition brought by the Natural Resources Defense Council soon after the Obama administration took office. After EPA stayed the Bush-era interpretation from taking effect and then proposed revoking it, the reconsideration process appears to have languished until the Trump administration restarted it, apparently earlier this year.

NRDC officials could not immediately be reached for comment on EPA's decision. Wheeler's signoff on the final action comes more than a month after the White House budget office completed a standard review. An EPA spokesman did not reply to an emailed inquiry this morning asking the reason for the delay.

For industries that may be required to add new pollution controls after a plant upgrade or expansion, the New Source Review program's permitting requirements are a source of intense interest.

Under the Trump administration, EPA has already stopped challenging companies' projections of emissions increases expected from specific projects and has also condensed the forecasting process, according to guidelines issued since last December.

Environmental groups contend that the practical effect will be to allow more air pollution. NRDC and two other organizations are challenging the latter change in court (Greenwire, June 5).

## E&E News: 'Upbeat' employees 'looking forward to January'

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060105455/search?keyword=epa>

Kevin Bogardus- Wednesday, November 7, 2018

EPA workers protest in Chicago against the Trump administration. Photo credit: Sierra Club/Flickr  
Some EPA employees are eager for House Democrats to investigate their agency's leadership. Pictured are EPA workers protesting the administration in Chicago last year. Sierra Club/Flickr

EPA employees will have newly empowered allies on Capitol Hill next year.

Under the Trump administration, career staff at the agency have seen colleagues leave in the hundreds while faced with proposed budget cuts by the White House. Some are now comforted by the upcoming change in House leadership as Democrats prepare to take charge next year. They believe that protection for employees is on the way.

"Everyone has let out a sigh of relief that at least for the next two years, our budget and jobs should be safe," said an EPA employee. "I know folks are looking forward to January when the next Congress starts. Positively upbeat is how my friends and I are, though we still have the Senate to deal with."

That person added, "Most people I talked with are hoping for a decent raise, for a change."

Mike Mikulka, president of American Federation of Government Employees Local 704, which represents EPA employees in its Chicago office, said stronger congressional oversight of EPA could soften some of President Trump's moves to pull back various environmental rules.

"I think people are guardedly optimistic that the free rein of the administration is over and its regulatory rollbacks get some pushback," he said, adding, "Hopefully, we will become more pro-environment."

"Everyone here at EPA Region 5 and elsewhere in the agency work here because they believe in the mission, which is protect the environment, not doing something else," said Mikulka, also a spokesman for the Save the U.S. EPA campaign.

William Reilly, who served as EPA administrator during the George H.W. Bush administration, said a Democratic House should help protect the agency.

"I think the integrity of the agency — its funding and the positive interest of at least one house of Congress — all bode well for the career people at EPA," Reilly said.

"I would expect the House oversight function to be informed by both environmental NGOs [nongovernmental organizations] and the scientific community to solicit the EPA professionals about areas of public policy that have been neglected by an administration focused on deregulation."

Gary Morton, president of AFGE Council 238, which represents about 8,000 EPA employees, said Democrats' taking the House should help federal workers.

"I was very pleased with the results last night regarding the House; looking forward to a change on how federal employees are viewed, and maybe now they will receive the praise for all their hard work," Morton told E&E News.

"Federal employees bore the brunt of the demonizing attempts of the administration. Hopefully, they will get a fair shake now."

Trump has offered deep cuts to EPA's funding in the past, which lawmakers in both parties have rejected to keep the agency's budget relatively the same. Democrats will now lead the House Appropriations Committee and have more power to block proposed EPA cuts in the future.

"We have some really good champions there on the Appropriations Committee," Mikulka said.

Reilly also said he expects the House to increase oversight of EPA, focusing on the agency's use of science, "beginning with the flawed risk assessment underlying the proposed changes to the automobile fuel efficiency standards."

#### Outlet for agency complaints

With Democrats soon to be in charge of the House, they will have new investigatory powers to dig even deeper into EPA operations under the Trump administration. Those lawmakers will be a welcomed outlet for employees at the agency who want to share information.

"With the House in the Democratic hands, there's going to be a lot of stuff being fed to Congress," a longtime EPA career employee told E&E News today.

"There's a return to a check and balance by having the House of Representatives in the hands of the opposite party, and it was the House of Representatives more than the Senate that provided a check and balance during the Gorsuch years," that person added.

During the Reagan administration, the Democratic-led House voted to cite then-EPA chief Anne Gorsuch Burford with contempt of Congress after she refused to hand over subpoenaed documents pertaining to the agency's embattled Superfund program. Rita Lavelle, EPA's Superfund chief under Reagan, was sentenced to prison for lying to Congress in relation to that scandal.

"There will be more accountability and oversight, and that will affect EPA policy to the good," said the longtime EPA employee, who added that politics are different now. "The country has changed, and the world has changed. We're not as civilized as we used to be back then, so some of the antics of Rita Lavelle would not shock the conscience of America in 2018 as it did in America in 1982."

Since scandal-plagued Administrator Scott Pruitt was replaced in July by acting EPA chief Andrew Wheeler, there might be less of an appetite among House Democrats to grill the agency boss.

Wheeler "is not a crook like Pruitt was," said the longtime employee. "The question is whether Pruitt will be prosecuted for some of the foolishness he was involved in. I don't know; I can't even remember what he looks like."

Reilly doesn't see the need for subpoenas at Wheeler's EPA.

"I think we need to recognize that a lot of us will have positions adversarial to Wheeler, but that doesn't call into question his basic integrity, like that first year did with Pruitt," Reilly said.

'I'm sure we will comply'

Political staff at EPA anticipated that a change was coming in Congress.

"We already know incoming chairmen and women have a list of subpoenas and document requests they will want to issue. I'm sure we will comply with all those requests as they come," said one EPA political appointee when asked about the Democrats' takeover of the House.

Expectations at the agency were that Republicans would lose the House, and tougher oversight from the new committee heads would follow. The appointee, however, pointed to GOP gains in the Senate that could help staff up leadership at the agency, including bringing on Wheeler permanently as administrator along with other nominees to lead EPA's solid waste, chemicals and international affairs offices.

"Hopefully, with increased numbers in [the] Senate, we can get Andrew nominated and confirmed, then get [nominees] like Peter Wright, Alex Dunn, Chad McIntosh confirmed, as well," said the appointee.

Another career employee, however, celebrated the Democrats' victory in the House.

"I am personally thrilled to have restored some balance of power in the nation," said the employee, who wasn't surprised that Trump tried to declare a personal victory with the election results.

"Just wait," that employee said. "The reckoning will come."

Reporter Robin Bravender contributed.

## Environmental Defense Fund: Voters put a check on the Trump administration's reckless environmental policies

<https://www.edf.org/blog/2018/11/07/voters-put-check-trump-administrations-reckless-environmental-policies>

Fred Krupp- November 7, 2018 in Politics

Last night, the American people voted to put a check on the excesses of the Trump administration. The voters are clearly demanding changes in Washington, a return to common sense policies, and greater accountability from their elected leaders.

The results were also a rebuke to the current leadership of the House of Representatives, which has voted repeatedly to undermine science, roll back environmental safeguards and allow more pollution.

Pro-environmental candidates and climate champions were on the ballot in hundreds of elections at the federal, state and local levels. Many winning candidates made environmental protection central to their campaigns; and many who reject climate science were defeated.

Even in races where pro-environment candidates did not prevail, clean air, clean water and climate change were issues both sides attempted to claim.

The election results will bring welcome oversight and accountability to the Trump administration. We will continue to work with members of both parties to make progress toward climate solutions, defend the Environmental Protection Agency's budget, protect American families from dangerous chemicals, and strengthen our core environmental laws and regulations.

Beginning in January, Washington – and state houses around the country – will see a growing chorus of new young leaders demanding action on climate change and adequate protections from pollution. The House of Representatives will see a record number of women, many strongly pro-environment.

As a result, this election gives us an opportunity to check the excesses of this administration, and hold it accountable for undermining health and environmental safeguards. Everyone who voted for a cleaner, healthier, more prosperous future must now join together to make it happen.

## Bloomberg Law: Scrutiny of Trump EPA to Begin at House Science Committee

<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/product-liability-and-toxics-law/scrutiny-of-trump-epa-to-begin-at-house-science-committee>

Dean Scott- Nov. 7, 2018, 11:15 AM

- Democrat Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson likely to be chairman
- Texan says to expect focus on climate science, environmental protection

Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson says vigorous oversight of the Trump administration's actions at the Energy Department and the EPA will begin if, as expected, she becomes the new chairwoman of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee.

The Texas Democrat also promised that the committee's days of ignoring climate change are about to end.

Johnson told Bloomberg Environment that the committee will shift away from GOP-led attempts "to destroy EPA" under the current chairman, Lamar Smith (R-Texas).

Reps. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas) and Lamar Smith (R-Texas) at a July 25, 2018, hearing of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

The panel will instead work to highlight the threats of climate change, including educating and updating committee members on recent climate science.

The EPA and other agencies that came under intense scrutiny during the Obama administration by her Republican predecessors for what some business groups said was overzealous regulation will now be pressed on where they fall short in protecting the environment, she said.

### 'Unfair Hits'

"A lot of different agencies I think have taken some unfair hits" during Republican control of the House, Johnson said. She was the top Democrat on the committee during the eight years of Republican control and is in line to become chairwoman in January when Democrats, who won a majority, take control of the House.

Her chairmanship also would bring to a close a Republican agenda that since the GOP House takeover in 2011 has more often scrutinized the costs of compliance with regulations rather than the potential benefits of rules to protect human health and the environment.

Johnson will be the first woman to lead the committee.

The committee oversees the research arms of the Environmental Protection Agency and nonmilitary energy labs at the Energy Department. It also has jurisdiction over civil aviation, NASA, the National Weather Service, and the National Science Foundation.

With a Democratic House majority assured, Johnson in a statement late Nov. 6 vowed to "address the challenge of climate change, starting with acknowledging it is real, seeking to understand what climate science is telling us, and working to understand the ways we can mitigate it." She also promised to

restore “the credibility of the Science Committee as a place where science is respected and recognized as a crucial input to good policymaking.”

#### Native Texan

Johnson, 82, grew up in Texas and is a former nurse and businesswoman with a long political career in Dallas. She was first elected to the House in 1992.

This is her first committee chairmanship.

She is among the 182 House Democrats who have cosponsored a resolution condemning President Donald Trump’s decision in June 2017 to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The earliest the U.S. can formally leave is one day after the Nov. 3, 2020, presidential election.

“I don’t know what I can do about us getting back into it but I think if the committee had that leadership, it could help,” Johnson said.

“I don’t think we have a committee that wants to close its eyes and ears to the future. But they’ve been led in that direction” for eight years under the Republicans, she said. “This country is ready to move forward and protect the environment and protect people.”

Johnson will be the third consecutive Texan to chair the science committee, following Smith (2013-2018) and his predecessor, former Rep. Ralph Hall (2011-2013).

#### Climate Priorities

On climate, Johnson said, both parties need to recognize the breadth of the problem. “It’s not going to stop overnight,” she said. “What we have to do is open the dialogue. We’ve not had that opportunity.”

“But I’m not one of these people who just thinks I can ramrod everything through,” she said.

Johnson also argues that committee Republicans largely gave the EPA and other agencies a pass over the last two years since President Donald Trump was elected. She wants more focus on basic science, including ways to encourage science and technology education.

She pledged more bipartisan cooperation on the panel and regular order on legislation—though previous pledges by Republican and Democratic chairmen alike have yet to produce a more collegial environment.

#### Other Members

The panel will also have a new top Republican with Smith’s departure. Vice Chairman Frank Lucas (R-Okla.) is a leading candidate but also could be in line to be ranking member of the House Financial Services Committee.

Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Calif.), who has served on the committee for nearly three decades and has more seniority than Lucas, is trailing by more than 2,000 votes in his reelection bid with all precincts reported but has yet to concede.

Other senior Republicans contenders include Rep. Mo Brooks (R-Ala.), who won reelection.

Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-Ill.), a senior committee member, said a Democratic majority could help him move legislative proposals that stalled under the GOP-controlled House, including a bill he co-authored to award prizes for next-generation climate technologies.

He said he will push other issues, including the need for Congress to address ethics and other complexities of artificial intelligence technologies, as well as provide more of a regulatory structure for autonomous vehicle testing.

The Republican-led panel angered many in the scientific community after it subpoenaed the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 2015 over climate communications, demanding emails between scientists and internal staff.

Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.) said a Democratic-led committee would reassure scientists that they won't be targeted by such investigations.

"Regaining the trust of the scientific community that has just been bashed and trashed by the majority, that's something we can do," Lofgren told Bloomberg Environment.

# Daily Caller: A DEMOCRATIC HOUSE COULD SPELL TROUBLE FOR TRUMP'S DOI AND EPA

<https://dailycaller.com/2018/11/07/democratic-house-ryan-zinke-epa/>

Tim Pearce | Energy Reporter 2:25 PM 11/07/2018 | ENERGY

The Department of the Interior (DOI) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will likely face increased pressure from lawmakers after the Democratic Party won control of the House of Representatives during Tuesday's midterm elections.

Democrats picked up at least 27 seats in the House, four more than needed to gain a majority. Democratic House leaders are now in charge of setting the agenda and can increase oversight and issue subpoenas on Executive Branch agencies, Axios reports.

"Authorizing committees can take up executive branch bandwidth with oversight hearings," ClearView Energy Partners managing director Kevin Book said, according to Axios. "Appropriators can constrain executive branch options with riders and by limiting reprogramming requests."

The shift in power places Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in a difficult position as he tries to navigate multiple inspector general probes, one of which has been referred to the Justice Department, into his conduct. (RELATED: Trump Stands By Zinke Amid Misconduct Allegations)

Democratic New Jersey Rep. Frank Pallone is expected to lead the House Energy and Commerce Committee and target many of Trump's actions on the environment and energy by the EPA and DOI.

"We have serious concerns with how Trump's EPA has consistently sided with the special interests over people's health and the environment," Pallone told the Houston Chronicle in a statement Monday. "We will look to restore the environmental protections that have been gutted over the last two years."

A flood of negative press played a role in former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt resigning from his position in the Trump administration. Pruitt also faced pressure from lawmakers calling for investigations into Pruitt's spending habits and living arrangements. Democrats have increasingly turned their attention to Zinke, especially after news broke of the IG referring a probe to the Justice department.

Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke speaks during a daily press briefing at the White House in Washington, U.S.

Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke speaks during a daily press briefing at the White House in Washington, U.S., April 3, 2017. REUTERS/Carlos Barria

Trump has promised to fight back against a Democratic House majority hostile to his administration.